



Washington DNR Sept 9 Fuels Outlook

Vaughn Cork Fuels Analyst

Fuel Conditions: Current – 1000 Hour fuel moistures steady since Monday.

Upper Basin, Methow, Blues 8-10% Highlands, Lower Basin, Valley, Lower Yakima 11%
Kaniksu, Chelan, Upper Yakima 12% Foothills 13% W. WA 17-19%

FDRA's with ERC in near critical or critical range (90 th percentile and 97 th percentile respectively)	
Near Critical (90 th -96 th percentile)	Critical (97 th – 99 th percentile)
Chelan, Lower Basin, Upper Basin, Foothills, Kaniksu, Northern Blue Mts, Blue Mts Grass and Brush	Methow, Lower Yakima, Upper Yakima, Valley, Highlands, Puget Sound Lowlands, Cascades, Olympics, Coast

- Utilizing NFDRS 2016 indices for all FDRA's except the Blue Mountains. Percentiles are based on year round observations, and the Western Washington FDRA site does not report in percentiles at this time, so critical status is based on interpretation of the indices.

Forecast – Overnight RH recoveries improved some with a few areas hitting the 70% range but most areas still below 50%. Offshore flow looks to be weakening but still in place until at least Friday. This will temper the fuels immediately adjacent to the coast and Strait, but the interior is going to see fuel conditions worsen until the flow returns to onshore. Live fuels such as Scotch Broom, Evergreen Huckleberry, Salal, etc. are at their typical driest stage, and the normally spongy moss and lichens are tinder dry in these conditions. Every layer of the fuel profile is in play, where typically only the 10s, 100s, and the top layers of the duff are.

Eastern Washington is looking at increasingly warm, dry, and calm conditions that will keep the indices up. The warmup from yesterday is going to increase the probability of ignition today and provide some increased fire activity in the areas not impacted by winds yesterday. Conditions are still critical in all fuel layers.

Fire Behavior Potential:

Eastern Washington: With winds continuing to decrease across this side of the state, the overall fire activity is going to continue to fall. There is an increasing ignition potential over Tuesday as the temperatures climb. Expect fires to be active on all flanks with torching and short range spotting in the timber types but with only moderate spread rates with much more terrain influence than earlier this week.

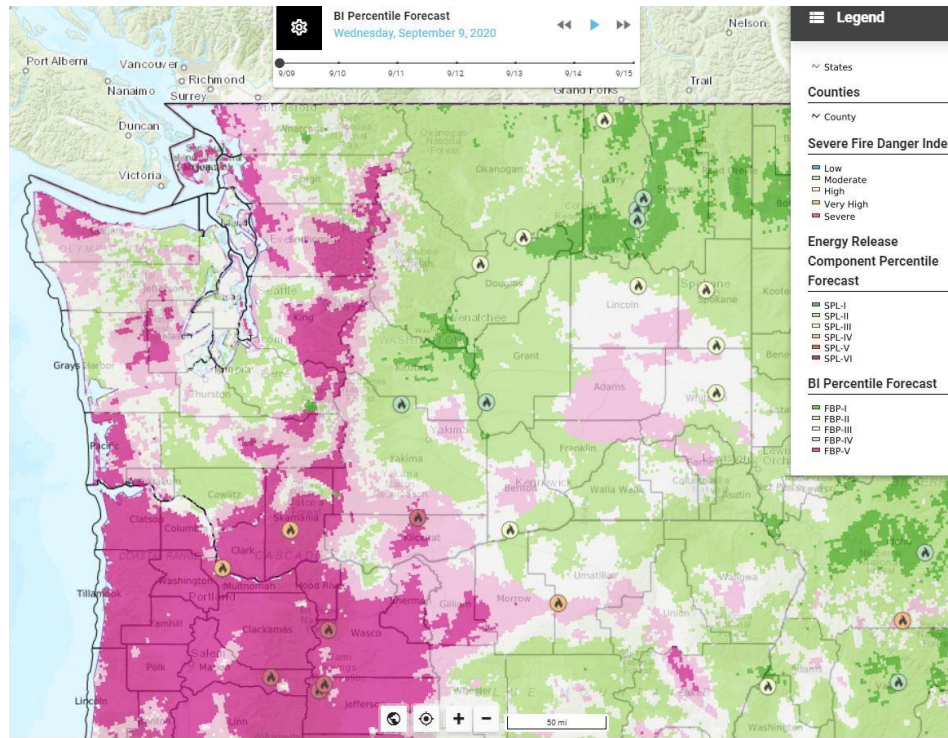
Western Washington: The fuel layer remains extremely volatile and the forecasts are now pushing back the timing of any relief a bit. At these RH's, the extremely heavy 1 and 10 hour fuel loads present on the west side become active carriers of fire activity, and the moss and lichen transition to behaving like short grass, capable of fast spread rates and allowing fire to easily climb to the canopy, and provide short range spotting. The typical heat sinks are not there to quash fire behavior, and fuel like Scotch Broom is a high-energy fuel in these conditions. Where the winds are still strong, extreme fire behavior should be expected, and possible elsewhere.

The potential through the forecast period for large costly fires in eastern WA is High. In western WA, the potential for large costly fires is High.

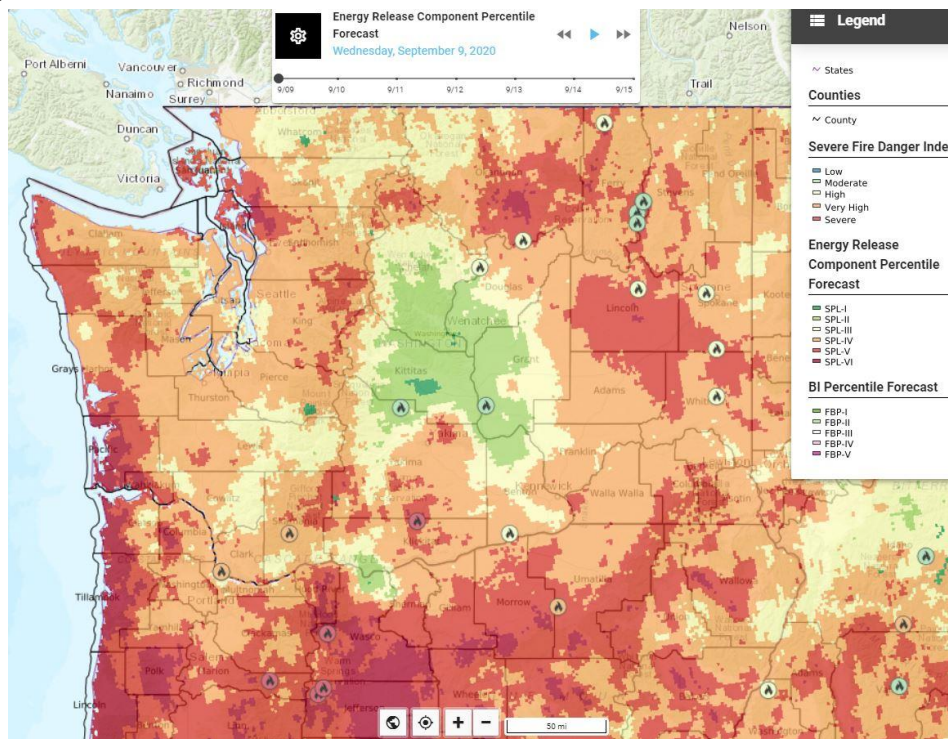


Washington DNR Sept 9 Fuels Outlook

Today's BI



Today's ERC



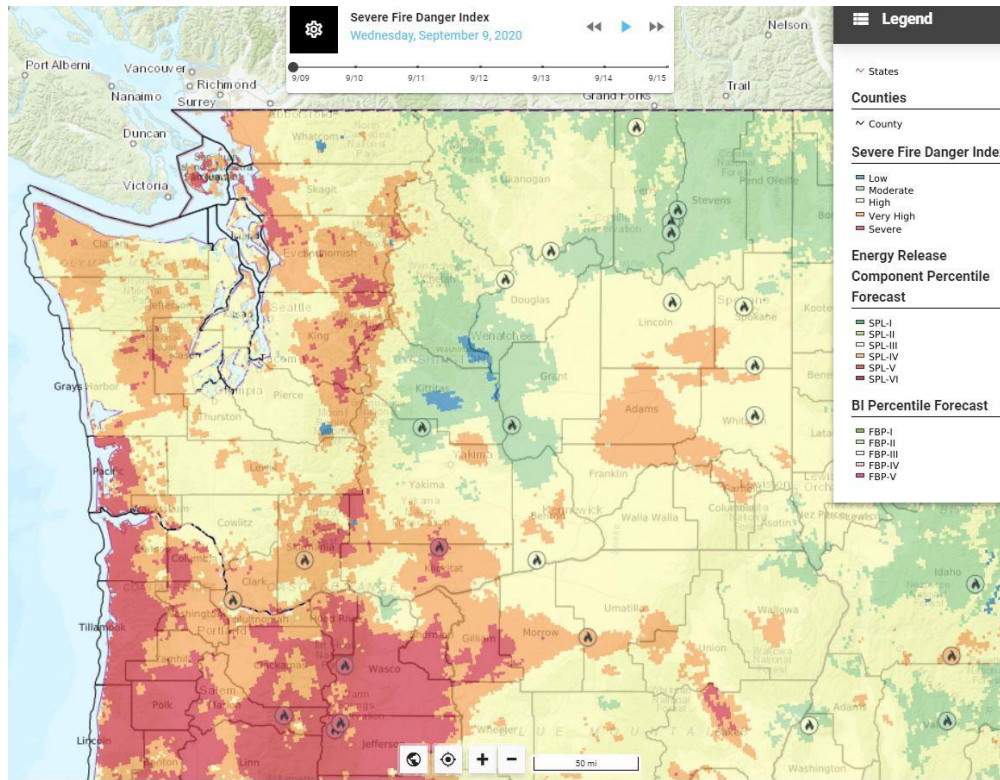
Valid for Sept 9, 2020

Date/Time Issued: 9/09/2020 0900



Washington DNR Sept 9 Fuels Outlook

Today's Severe Fire Index



Tomorrows Severe Fire Index

